

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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rupert's kids®



INDY PARKS + RUPERT'S KIDS = PARK ADOPTION PROGRAM

Organization's youth perform landscaping and beautification work; park professionals teach job skills

INDIANAPOLIS —Indy Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce a unique partnership with “Rupert’s Kids”— the local youth mentoring organization founded by TV’s “Survivor” contestant, Rupert Boneham — in which they will adopt six city parks and perform all maintenance and beautification throughout the summer.

The announcement was made during the Indy Parks / Indiana State Museum Annual Arbor Day Event, held in the great hall of the museum, during which more than 2000 local students participated in a tree planting, interactive tree presentations and had the opportunity to meet Rupert.

“This partnership is a perfect example of getting young people engaged in improving their community,” said Mayor Bart Peterson. “Indy Parks’ staff will be reaching out and sharing their expertise with Rupert’s Kids, who will, in turn, use that knowledge to help create stronger neighborhoods through beautifying our world-class parks.”

The six participating parks include Barton, John Ed, 29th and Broadway, Claypool, Ramsey and Indianola Parks. Indy Parks’ staff from Forestry and Horticulture will teach participants a variety of job skills in the landscape maintenance and land stewardship. Rupert’s Kids will assume maintenance responsibilities for the above parks immediately.

“I’m happy and proud of the work our kids are doing to beautify and maintain these six parks. The Rupert’s Kids program not only instills valuable job skills but a sense of confidence and self worth,” said Boneham. “Regardless of where their career paths take them, this experience will help them gain a better appreciation of the environment and community. ”

The partnership is expected to save Indy Parks approximately \$40,000 in summer maintenance costs. Park users will recognize Rupert’s Kids by the T-shirts they wear, bearing the famous face of the organization’s founder.

For additional information on the Park Adoption Partnership with Rupert’s Kid’s please contact Indy Parks Public Information Office at (317) 327-7035 or (317) 327-7027, and visit www.rupertskids.org.

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About Rupert’s Kids

Indianapolis-based Rupert’s Kids serves youth, typically ages 18-24, who have received intensive services in nearly every social service system in the region. Because these young men and women are unable to achieve and sustain stable housing and employment, most return to situations that originally lead to the challenges they currently face. Through work programs such as landscaping and home renovation, members of Rupert’s Kids learn skills and values that will lead them towards stability in their lives, in housing, employment and relationships. Homes renovated through the project will either be donated to low or no income families, or will be used as transitional housing for members of Rupert’s Kids.



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